

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. [currently amended] A composition of matter suitable for forming gas-permeation barrier articles, comprising: substantially amorphous millable polyurethane alloyed with rubber, said composition containing an amount up to about 50 wt% clay.

2. [canceled]

3. [currently amended] The composition of matter according to Claim 1, wherein said composition has an oxygen permeability, at 25°C, not greater than about  $5.5 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ cm/cm}^2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{Pa}$   ~~$10^{-13} \text{ } 5.5 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ cm/cm}^2 \cdot \text{seconds Pascal } 10^{-13}$~~ .

4. [original] The composition of matter according to Claim 1, wherein said millable polyurethane comprises an ether glycol selected from the group consisting of polytetramethylene ether glycol, polyester ether glycols, and polypropylene ether glycols.

5. [original] The composition of matter according to Claim 1, wherein said rubber is selected from the group consisting of polyisoprene, polybutadiene, and blends thereof.

6. [original] The composition of matter according to Claim 5, wherein said rubber is polyisoprene.

7. [original] The composition of matter according to Claim 5, wherein said polyisoprene is natural or synthetic.

8. [original] The composition of matter according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at least 10 weight percent millable polyurethane.

9. [original] The composition of matter according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at least 40 weight percent millable polyurethane.

10. [currently amended] The composition of matter according to Claim 1, further comprising ~~kaolin-clay extender~~, barium ~~ulphate~~ sulfate density filler, silicon dioxide curative, phthalate ester process oil, zinc oxide cure, sulfur curative, ~~n-tert-butyl-2-benzothiazolesulfenamide~~ n-tert-butyl-2-benzothiazolesulfenamide cure aide, diphenyl ~~guanidine acceelerator~~ accelerator, dibasic zinc stearate cure aide, benzothiazyl disulfide accelerator, and zinc chloride/MBTS complex cure activator.

11. [currently amended] An inflatable article of manufacture, comprising: substantially amorphous millable polyurethane alloyed with rubber, and comprising an amount up to about 50 wt% clay.

12. [canceled]

13. [currently amended] The inflatable article of manufacture according to Claim 11, wherein said composition has an oxygen permeability, at 25°C, not greater than about (5.5 cm<sup>3</sup> cm/cm<sup>2</sup> · s · Pa) 10<sup>-13</sup> ~~5.5-cm<sup>3</sup>-cm/cm<sup>2</sup>-seconds-Pascal~~ 10<sup>-13</sup>.

14. [original] The inflatable article of manufacture according to Claim 11, wherein said millable polyurethane comprises an ether glycol selected from the group consisting of polytetramethylene ether glycol, polyester ether glycols, and polypropylene ether glycols.

15. [original] The inflatable article of manufacture according to Claim 11, wherein said rubber is selected from the group consisting of polyisoprene, polybutadiene, and blends thereof.

16. [original] The inflatable article of manufacture according to Claim 15, wherein said rubber is polyisoprene.

17. [original] The inflatable article of manufacture according to Claim 15, wherein said polyisoprene is natural or synthetic.

18. [original] The inflatable article of manufacture according to Claim 15, wherein said composition comprises at least 10 weight percent millable polyurethane.

19. [original] The inflatable article of manufacture according to Claim 11, wherein said composition comprises at least 40 weight percent millable polyurethane.

20. [currently amended] The inflatable article of manufacture according to Claim 15, further comprising kaolin-clay extender, barium ~~ulphate~~ sulfate density filler, silicon dioxide curative, phthalate ester process oil, zinc oxide cure, sulfur curative, ~~n-tert-butyl-2-benzothiazolesulfenamide~~ n-tert-butyl-2-benzothiazolesulfenamide cure aide, diphenyl guanidine accleerator, dibasic zinc stearate cure aide, benzothiazyl disulfide accelerator, and zinc chloride/MBTS complex cure activator.

21. [original] The inflatable article of manufacture according to Claim 11, wherein said article is selected from the group consisting of balls, inner tubes, and tubeless tires.

22. [currently amended] The inflatable article of manufacture according to Claim ~~21~~<sup>11</sup>, wherein said ~~inner-tube~~ article is a bicycle inner tube.

23. [currently amended] A tennis ball, comprising: substantially amorphous millable polyurethane alloyed with rubber, and an amount up to about 50 wt% clay.

24. [canceled]

25. [currently amended] The tennis ball according to Claim 23, wherein said alloy has an oxygen permeability, at 25°C, not greater than about  $(5.5 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ cm/cm}^2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{Pa}) 10^{-13}$   ~~$5.5 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ cm/cm}^2 \cdot \text{seconds-Pascal } 10^{-13}$~~ .

26. [original] The tennis ball according to Claim 23, wherein said millable polyurethane comprises an ether glycol selected from the group consisting of polytetramethylene ether glycol, polyester ether glycols, and polypropylene ether glycols.

27. [original] The tennis ball according to Claim 23, wherein said rubber is selected from the group consisting of polyisoprene, polybutadiene, and blends thereof.

28. [original] The tennis ball according to Claim 27, wherein said rubber is polyisoprene.

29. [original] The tennis ball according to Claim 28, wherein said polyisoprene is natural or synthetic.

30. [original] The tennis ball according to Claim 23, wherein said alloy comprises at least 10 weight percent millable polyurethane.

31. [original] The tennis ball according to Claim 23, wherein said alloy comprises at least 40 weight percent millable polyurethane.

32. [currently amended] The tennis ball according to Claim 23, further comprising N330 carbon black, dibutoxyethoxyethyl adipate (DBEEA) plasticizer, zinc stearate accelerator, stearic acid process aid, ~~naphthene~~ naphthalenic process oil, benzothiazyl disulfide (MBTS) accelerator, 2-mercaptobenzothiazole (MBT) accelerator, sulfur and tetramethyl thiuram (TMTD)disulfide accelerator.